

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended. No new claims have been added. No claims have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, and 15-18 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Xu et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,324,581) in view of *Schmuck et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,940,841. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 1, 7, and 13.

Relative to dependent claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15-18, these dependent claims depend from independent claims 1, 7, and 13, respectively. If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Since these dependent claims depend from independent claims 1, 7, and 13, and Applicants believe they have successfully traversed the Examiner's rejection of

independent claims 1, 7, and 13, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of dependent claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15-18.

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 7, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Xu et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,324,581) in view of *Schmuck et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,940,841. "To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure." *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991)." MPEP 2143, Basic Requirements of a *Prima Facie* Case of Obviousness.

The Examiner's rejection of independent claims 1, 7, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Relative to the first criteria that there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure, the Examiner asserts a suggestion or motivation to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings which is found in the Applicants' disclosure. The suggestion or motivation to modify the reference or to combine

reference teachings alleged by the Examiner is “to extract extended file attributes from metadata in order to better access shared disk system”, and the Examiner asserts that “interpreted attributes as part of metadata”. However, Applicants’ disclosure reads:

“In accordance with another aspect of a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the *extended file attributes are stored in a shared memory portion of the workstation storage which is accessible* by the client and other workstation processes; a unique handle is associated with the extended file attributes; and the unique handle is provided to a workstation process to enable the workstation process to access the extended file attributes.” (Applicants’ Disclosure p. 7, ln. 24-28).

“The client communication program **240** *uses the workstation's 210 shared storage 250 mechanisms to save the attributes 205 and make them available* to other processes **260** and **265** on the workstation **210**.” (Applicants’ Disclosure p. 11, ln. 29 - p. 12, ln. 2).

“The *extended host file attributes 205 are stored in a persistent shared storage 250, preferably a shared memory segment of the workstation operating system which is accessible* by the client **240** and other workstation processes **260** and **265**.” (Applicants’ Disclosure p. 13, ln. 13-16).

“To enable interested workstation processes **260** and **265** *to access the extended file attributes 205 stored in the persistent shared storage 250*, process block **410** associates a

unique handle 295 with the extended file attributes 205 and provides the unique handle 295 to the interested workstation processes 260 and 265.” (Applicants’ Disclosure p. 13, ln. 20-23).

“In process block 430, the workstation client 260 *accesses the foreign file attributes 205 by accessing the named persistent shared storage 250* to process the foreign file 290.” (Applicants’ Disclosure p. 14, ln. 6-7).

“6. The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:
storing the extended file attributes in a shared memory portion of the local data processing system storage which is accessible by the client and other local data processing system processes” (Applicants’ Disclosure p. 17, claim 6).

“12. The article of manufacture of claim 8 wherein the method steps further comprise the steps of:
storing the extended file attributes in a shared memory portion of the local data processing system storage which is accessible by the client and other local data processing system processes” (Applicants’ Disclosure p. 19, claim 12).

“18. The distributed computer system of claim 14 further comprising:

a shared memory portion of the local data processing system storage which is accessible by the client and other local data processing system processes for storing the extended file attributes” (Applicants’ Disclosure p. 21, claim 18).

“The client communication program uses the local data processing system's *shared storage mechanisms to save the remote file attributes and to make them available* to other processes executing on the local data processing system.” (Applicants’ Disclosure p. 22, ln. 11-13).

Thus, the Examiner’s rejection of independent claims 1, 7, and 13 fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as it does not establish a suggestion or motivation to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings not found in Applicants’ disclosure. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of independent claims 1, 7, and 13.

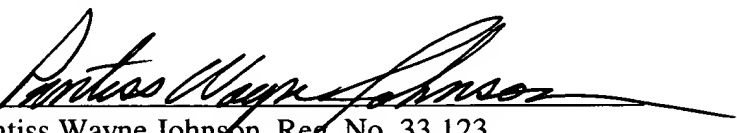
Relative to dependent claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15-18, these dependent claims depend from independent claims 1, 7, and 13, respectively. If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Since these dependent claims depend from independent claims 1, 7, and 13, and Applicants believe they have successfully traversed the Examiner's rejection of

independent claims 1, 7, and 13, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of dependent claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15-18.

Conclusion

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all currently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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